

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. A marked up version of the amended paragraph of the specification is attached hereto pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii). Claims 1-7 have been amended for clarity. A marked up version of the amended claims is also attached hereto pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii). New claims 8-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application for consideration.

The amendments to the present application are made to place the application in better form and to place the application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added. Entry and consideration of these amendments prior to the first Office Action are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: 

Anthony J. Orler
Registration No. 41,232
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: July 29, 2002

Biltmore Tower, Suite 1900
500 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213 337-6700
Fax: 213 337-6701

Version with markings to show changes made:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0008 on page 3 as follows:

The present invention was made in consideration to the aforementioned circumstance, and thus [the object] an advantage of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a connection to the terminal within the local system from the Internet or the connection between the terminals within different local systems is realized while maintaining the safety of the local system, and a replay server preferable to be used within such communication system.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Once Amended) A relay server comprising:
communicating means [capable of] for communicating with a plurality of network devices; and
connection information holding means for holding connection information of the network devices capable of communicating by the communicating means,
wherein the communicating means carries out communication with the network devices in accordance with the connection information, and relays data [forwarding] between the [specified] network devices in accordance with connection demand information generated from one of the plurality of network devices.
2. (Once Amended) A communication system comprising:
a plurality of network devices; and

a relay server connected to the plurality of network devices [by] via a network, wherein [the] a first network device of the plurality of network devices establishes a communication path with the relay server, and generates a connection demand for communication with [the] a second network device of the plurality of network devices to the relay sever when communicating with the second network device, and

the relay server relays the communication between the first and second network devices by using [the] a communication path established in advance in accordance with the connection demand from the first network device.

3. (Once Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 2 wherein the first network device is located in a local system, and connection to the first network device from [an] outside [of] the local system is limited.

4. (Once Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 2 wherein the first network device is connected to the relay server via a gateway device having an address converting function.

5. (Once Amended) A facsimile system comprising:
a facsimile machine connected to [an] a first inner network;
a first gateway device for connecting the first inner network to an outer network; and

a relay server connected to the outer network for relaying communication between the first gateway device and [another] a second gateway device,

wherein the facsimile machine transmits and receives image data by being connected to the relay server via the first gateway device in advance.

6. (Once Amended) [A] The facsimile system according to claim 5 wherein the relay server manages the facsimile machine to be connected in accordance with identifying information specific to the facsimile machine.

7. (Once Amended) [A] The facsimile system according to claim 5 wherein a plurality of facsimile machines within the first inner network and [another] a second inner network can be connected to the relay server via the first gateway device and the [another] second gateway device, and the relay server manages each of the plurality of facsimile machines to be connected in accordance with identifying information specific to each of the plurality of facsimile machines.